

Res. 23-33

**Ford County Board Resolution
In support of Ford County Agriculture**

WHEREAS, Illinois is home to more than 71,000 farms, 96% of which are family-owned and many of which include livestock; and

WHEREAS, Ford County accounts for 564 of those farms; and

WHEREAS, agriculture supports 2,405 jobs which accounts for an estimated 36 percent of total jobs in the county; and

WHEREAS, agriculture and related industries generate total sales or output is estimated at \$653.1 million; and

WHEREAS, farm property provides 36 percent of taxable value, which provides services to residents; and

WHEREAS, Illinois farmers support the food security of our citizens; the international pandemic displayed the importance of American food systems, processing, and supply chain weaknesses; and

WHEREAS, new livestock development accounts for additional jobs creating additional economic growth within the county; and

WHEREAS, farmers are dedicated to caring for their animals in ways that also benefit the land; using tools and technology to better manage soil nutrients, water runoff and air quality on the farm, farmers are using fewer natural resources and reducing their carbon footprint while producing more food; and

WHEREAS, farmland is a finite resource that is vital to agriculture, food production, and the economic well-being of our county; and

WHEREAS, farmers in Illinois face multiple layers of regulation involving state and federal agencies providing a comprehensive, robust regulatory program for all farms including those raising livestock; and

WHEREAS, data and information from state regulatory agencies demonstrates environmental issues from agriculture are an extremely rare occurrence; and

WHEREAS, the county recognizes the value agriculture contributes to our county and the rural way of life is the backbone of our country; efforts should be made to accommodate future success of the rural community.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Ford County Board acknowledges and supports agriculture within our county; the jobs created, taxes generated, technologies embraced, and environmental practices implemented by farmers makes agriculture a valuable industry within our county.

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the County of Ford elected board and county staff will work to support and promote the development of agriculture for the benefit of our county and all its residents.

Passed by the Ford County Board on 13th day of March, 2023.



Debbie Smith *Cindy Durke vice chairman*
Ford County Chairman of the board

ATTEST

Amy Frederick
Ford County Clerk & Recorder

